

**Mission Statement  
of the Regional Church**

*Our mission is*

- To nurture members and congregations
- To establish and receive new congregations

*While working together with the whole Church to do Christ's ministry in the world.*

Doug and Cathy Myers Wirt  
*Regional Ministers*

Audre Bratcher,  
*Administrative Assistant*

**On the Way with Doug and Cathy**

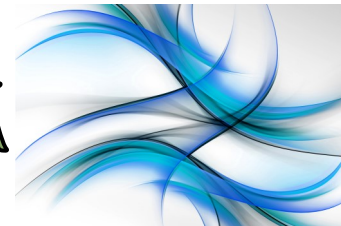
- July 2 Springfield First/ Glenwood Preaching Doug
- June 25 Portland First, Worship Cathy
- June 25 Boise, Red Rock, Worship Doug
- June 21 Albany, Verne Catt McDowell Bd. Doug
- June 21 McKenzie River, Eugene Ministers' BBQ Cathy
- June 18 Ione, Preaching Cathy
- June 18 Portland First, Worship Doug
- June 13 New Church Team Doug
- June 12 Planning Meeting Apr. 2018 Women's Event Cathy
- June 11 Medford, Farewell for Interim Pastors Cathy
- June 11 Portland First, Worship/Baby Shower Doug
- June 11 Portland, Christ Church, Worship Doug
- June 7-10 St. Louis, NBA Board Meeting Cathy
- June 6 Salem First, Prayer Gathering Doug
- June 4 Keizer, Pastor Installation Cathy/Doug
- June 3 Regional Board Meeting Doug/Cathy
- May 30 Ione, Committee Meeting Doug
- May 30 Salem, Santiam Ministers Breakfast Doug
- May 28 Salem First, Worship Doug
- May 27 Albany, Pastor Installation Cathy
- May 23-25 Oakland, Western Regional Ministers Cathy/Doug



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**Volume 4 Issue 4**



*Prayers for Campers and Staff*

Thank you to Burley First Christian for hosting Kids' Camp in June and for the camp staff that have already served at Cascade Camp with the grade school age campers.

The week of July 30, the region will host four camps in two locations. Our middle school and high school camps meet at Cascade Camp and Suttle Lake Camp. We are grateful for those who have stepped up to lead these events and those who support the campers in getting to the camps. Watch our website and Facebook pages for pictures as the comp season rolls through.

This year's theme is  
**"Do the Math!"**

- The campers are encouraged to:
- Multiple** Love and Blessing
- Divide** Stuff Equally
- Subtract** Hate from your Life
- Add** Grace into the World



**Regional Ministry Emails Change**

*New Email Addresses for the Regional Ministers*

**Doug:** [doug@oidisciples.org](mailto:doug@oidisciples.org)

**Cathy:** [cathy@oidisciples.org](mailto:cathy@oidisciples.org)

**News from our Congregations**

**Salem:** Hosting ordination of Zane Ridings on August 26.

**Ione:** Stacy Shelton concluded her ministry in June

**Mountain Home:** Security team had a real time practice during worship that ended well.

**Medford:** Bill and Mary Jacobs concluded their interim ministry and Stacy Shelton began as the new pastor on Father's Day.

**Portland FCC:** Amy Piatt concluded her ministry in June.

**Parkview:** Extended the terms of Interim Ministers Deral Schrom and Gary Smith.

**Nueva Vida:** Moved into new Gresham location.

**Northwood:** Youth Minister John Bowling is taking a well deserved sabbatical leave this summer.

**John Day:** Three day multi church "round up" revival this spring.

**Caldwell, Treasure Valley:** Welcomed four new members on one day in June.

**Springfield/Glenwood:** Erin Curtis is preaching regularly for both congregations.

**Eugene Pastors:** Enjoyed a BBQ in McKenzie Bridge hosted by Dick and Doris Lauer

**Save these dates!**

- August 18-20**  
*Cascade, Idaho*  
*Snake River District*  
*Women's Retreat*
- August 26**  
*Ordination Service for*  
*Zane Ridings, Salem FCC*
- September 22**  
*Springfield, Oregon*  
*Anti-Racism Training*
- September 23**  
*Medford*  
*First*  
*Christian*  
*Installation*  
*Service for*  
*Pastor Stacy Shelton*



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**Regional Assembly**  
**May 18-19, 2018**  
**Portland FCC**  
Rev. Sandhya Jha  
&  
Dr. Timothy James



Cathy and I want to thank the Regional Board and all Oregon-SW Idaho Disciples for allowing us to have two months of sabbatical study leave this spring. We enjoyed the time of being together, visiting some beautiful places in the West, and spending a good amount of days in our home together.

Here is some of what we did:

- ◆ Short trips to the San Juan Islands, Oregon coast, and central Oregon. We also were blessed with two weeks in southern California, staying at time shares donated by a family in the region. Our sons went with us for some of this travel.
- ◆ Readings of multiple books related to the ethnic and racial histories of the Pacific Northwest and the United States. This prepares us for the Anti-Racism/Pro Reconciliation trainings and work that is part of our three year regional vision.
- ◆ Several other readings related to the changing shape and functions of regional/area ministries in various denominations. The changing role of the District Superintendent among the United Methodists for instance, is similar to what we see with Disciples. A Methodist study described their “D.S.” as becoming more relational and less administrative in order to act as their “chief mission strategists.”
- ◆ We also spent a lot of time sorting out many items in our house that have belonged to our sons or our parents. Sorting closets and the garage can be quite the spiritual and emotional journey.

Our return had a backlog of tasks to work through, too. The best part of coming back? Getting to see the people and places that we treasure so much in the Oregon-SW Idaho region.

*Doug*

## A Summer of Ministry Education & Travel

Many Disciples from Oregon-SW Idaho will be on the move this summer for classes and training in ministry and church leadership.

Four Disciples from the region attended **Spanish language ministry classes** at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. The classes and studies were all day and evening for one week.

Eight members of the **Chuukese Fellowship Church** of Christ from Salem travelled to Saint Joseph, Missouri for several days of training in June.

Four **Master of Divinity students** in the region continued their online degree programs which includes campus visits at Claremont and Lexington.

Shari Eggleston (The View) and Karyn Dix (Murray Hills) have trips to Oklahoma and Texas for their **Doctor of Ministry programs** at Phillips Seminary and Brite Divinity.



## Global Ministries Update — Lebanon, Ecuador, Lesotho

Our own Bethany Waggoner serves with the Middle East Council of Churches in the country of Lebanon. She recently wrote a Global Ministries feature article about the ministry of the MECC which brings together youth of diverse backgrounds for greater understanding of one another.



Glenn Hebert and Marilyn Cooper of the FEDICE ministry in Ecuador will visit in Oregon during July. They will be on vacation and so not doing lots of church visits, but will see some of their friends in this region.

The Lesotho Evangelical Church is working hard to preserve church properties amidst new and challenging government regulations.

## Introducing Portsmouth Union Church

Get used to hearing a new name among the congregations of the Oregon-SW Idaho region. Portsmouth Union Church is located in North Portland, exactly where St. Johns Community Church and University Park Methodist have been meeting. The two churches have shared worship, space, mission and friendship together for a couple of years. On February 19, the two congregations voted to become one. Then on Pentecost Sunday, they began using their new name, Portsmouth Union Church. Portsmouth is a neighborhood in North Portland. The term “union” refers to joining together as a ministry of both the United Methodist Church and of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Jules Nielsen (UMC) and Andy Goebel (DOC) are the pastors. Marci Rau and Bill Lang are Portsmouth members who share their Disciples of Christ background at Portsmouth.



## Women’s Retreats....Not too Soon to Plan to Come



The Snake River District women will host its annual retreat in Cascade, Idaho on August 18-20 at the Ashley Inn. This year’s speaker is Rev. Marci Rau, Chaplain and Interplay Leader.

The western districts of our regional church host a women’s retreat to be held at Murray Hills Christian Church on October 13-14. This year’s speaker is Rev. Dr. Katy Valentine, member of the staff in Northern California/Nevada region and pastor in a congregation in that region.

Both of these retreats offer times of inspiration, fun, creativity, community building, outreach and learning. Watch the web page for more information.

Both groups are reading the book, *“Before we were Free”* for our annual women’s book club read. Copies of the book can be found at libraries, used on line, or purchased from the regional church office for \$5.00.

Registration materials are posted on our website at:

<http://www.oidisciples.org/womens-fall-retreat-2014>